

tions, which cascara sagrada kept fairly free. Every effort was made to get him to empty his bladder naturally by propping him up against the wall and otherwise, but it was generally a failure. During this period priapism was very marked, but there were never any seminal emissions, and his hands had to be tied to the bedstead to prevent his practising onanism—a habit to which he had never been addicted. He remained in this condition till two months after the onset; then he began, while half awake and half asleep, to talk as if in a dream, sometimes saying things which were ridiculous, and occasionally asking how long he had been ill. He also showed evidence of an emotional tendency unusual to him. His weight, which previously had been gradually decreasing, began now slowly to return to the normal condition, and he was allowed to sit up for an hour or two daily. The sense of taste, which was apparently quite absent previously, also gradually returned, but it was not entirely restored for some time.

For several months after the mental faculties were completely restored the patient had considerable difficulty in walking, on account of incoördination and a tendency to fall to one side. Recovery was ultimately complete.

The author says that only eighteen other cases of such protracted sleep are on record, and of these four died in the sleep. Weir Mitchell has given an epitome of these eighteen cases in the *Transactions of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia*, Vol. III, and more information on the subject will be found in Gould and Pyle's "Anomalies and Curiosities of Medicine."

PATRICK.

THERAPY.

141. VERSUCHE ÜBER COCAINISIRUNG DES RÜCKENMARKES (Cocainization of the Spinal Cord). Bier (*Deutsche Zeitschr. für Chirurgie*, April, 1899).

The author reports the results of some remarkable experiments that he has been making to test the feasibility of rendering large areas of the body anesthetic by cocainization of the spinal cord. The method employed was to throw minute quantities of the drug into the subdural space after the manner of Quincke's lumbar puncture. By the use in this way of 0.005-0.01 gm. of cocaine he was enabled to perform painlessly such operations as resection of knee and ankle-joints, necrotomy of the tibia, resection of the ischium, resection in a case of complicated fracture of the femur, and treatment of an osteomyelitis femoris. As drawbacks to the procedure there were manifested in several cases disquieting symptoms, such as severe headache, nausea and vomiting, which lasted for several days. In order to estimate the intensity of these more exactly the author tried the injection both on himself and his colleague Hildebrand, finding that anesthesia of the whole of the lower extremities set in after an interval of from 5 to 8 minutes. A dose of 0.005 gm. maintained this state for about 45 minutes, then sensibility slowly returned. The after-effects were marked on both experimenters. Bier was even obliged to remain in bed for several days. Before making further trials on the human subject the author intends to investigate more fully the effects on animals.

JELLIFFE.

142. HYDATID OF THE BRAIN—OPERATION—RECOVERY (Vance, *Australasian Medical Gazette*, Feb. 21, 1898).

A man of thirty-six was admitted to hospital with right hemiparesis and aphasia, the trouble having begun six months previously with twitchings of the tongue and arm, gradually followed by the other

symptoms. For the first few months of his illness he suffered from epileptic fits, exact character not stated. There was no loss of sensation, no headache, and no optic neuritis. Under medical treatment there was no improvement and no aggravation of the symptoms, except that six months after admission he was found to have double-choked disk. Mr. O'Hara operated, finding a cyst about the size of a bantam's egg, which was drained. Patient made a good recovery from the operation. In discussing the paper Mr. O'Hara reported another case of hydatid of the brain in a boy operated upon eight years before. He had made a perfect recovery from a complete left hemiplegia and double optic neuritis. PATRICK.

143. L'ÉLONGATION DU PNEUMOGASTRIQUE (Stretching of the Pneumogastric) Jaboulay, (Lyon Médical, Vol. 87, 1898, p. 537).

The author, who has been almost fantastically active in surgery of the nervous system, now reports upon stretching of the pneumogastric. He says that this measure may modify the excitability of the bulbo-pontine region by traction upon the fibers of origin, and also that of the branches of the nerve distributed to the respiratory, digestive and circulatory mechanisms. He has performed the operation for one case of epilepsy, proceeding upon the assumption that Schroeder Van der Kolk was correct in localizing the convulsive center in the locus ceruleus, and believing that the operation would "modify" this region. The patient was a boy of sixteen years, who had as many as twenty-five attacks a day, preceded by an epigastric aura, and who was relieved by the operation, it is not said for how long nor to what extent. The author claims the peculiar advantage of this operation over others that it is particularly adapted to the large number of cases of idiopathic epilepsy that "begin in the epigastric region." He further asserts that when this operation on one side is combined with unilateral section of the cervical sympathetic that the peripheral cardiac effects are compensatory and the encephalon is modified in its entirety. He has also stretched the pneumogastric in a case of exophthalmic goitre in which section of the sympathetic had been previously performed. Although the first operation relieved the exophthalmos, it had no effect upon attacks of coughing which greatly troubled the patient. These were relieved by the pneumogastric operation. PATRICK.

144. UEBER SUBCUTANE INJECTIONEN VON HEROINUM MURIATICUM. (Heroin used subcutaneously.) A. Eulenberg (Deutsche med. Wochenschrift, March 25, 1899. p. 187).

The muriate of heroin, a new derivate from morphine, has been used extensively by this well-known clinician in some three hundred cases. It is readily soluble in water, and is used in two-per-cent. solution. The maximum dose should not be over 1-6 grain for an adult. Therapeutically it is indicated as an antispasmodic in asthma, and is of service in various neuralgias, intercostal, trigeminal, and sciatica, the myalgias and arthralgias. It has proven especially valuable in cases where chronic morphine medication has lost its value. His experience would also seem to bear out that of other recent observers, that heroin is destined to become a very valuable drug in the treatment of chronic morphinism. The daily dose should not exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ grain. JELLIFFE.